

Commentary on Hebrews

Review

MEANING AND APPLICATIONS OF THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

- I. **The most acceptable answer seems to be explained in Hebrews 10:1 – “The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming--not the realities themselves.”**
 - A. This passage is talking about the Day of Atonement sacrifices for the writer specifies: “For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship.”
 - B. So these sacrifices offered on the 10th day of the 7th month were only a shadow of the future REAL sacrifice of Christ!
 - C. Therefore, as far as Israel was concerned those sins were forgiven and Israel goes free of guilt – to be forgotten!
 - D. As far as God is concerned, those sins are forgiven but not really covered, not actually atoned for because:
 1. God had simply written an IOU against the cross of Jesus, at which time those sins would be actually covered and atoned for
 - a. **Hebrews 9:15 NIV** For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance--now that he has died as a ransom **to set them free from the sins** committed under the first covenant.
 - b. **Romans 3:25 NIV** God presented Christ as a **sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood**--to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance **he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished...**
 2. And really, this is a mere human point of view, since Jesus was slain in God’s mind before the foundation of the world!
 - a. **1 Peter 1:18-20 NIV** For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, (19) **but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.** (20) **He was chosen before the creation of the world,** but was revealed in these last times for your sake.
 - b. **Revelation 13:8 NIV** All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast--all whose names have not been written in the Lamb's book of life, **the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.**
 3. God, who is omnipotent and omniscient and omnipresent, can act on the cross at any time He wants – He is not bound by time!
 - E. And yet, He built into the sacrificial system the symbolic representation of His plan of salvation, even for the Jews.

1. So that symbolically, in SHADOW form, those sins were placed on the head of a goat and sent to the cross of Christ
2. So that, if the Day of Atonement was always observed, when Christ died, He would bear in fact all the sins from the heads of some 1600 goats and actually atone for them on the cross

Continuation

MEANING AND APPLICATIONS OF THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

II. Aaron's Preparation and Jesus' Sacrifice

- A. Aaron, as High Priest, acts alone in the ceremonies of the Day of Atonement.
 1. He divests himself out of his glorious garments
 2. He puts on simply robes of humble servant priest.
 3. Aaron offered the sacrifice and applied the blood in atonement for sin
 4. He also offered the sacrifice of burnt-offering of consecration
- B. So Jesus, acting alone (although He was never alone, His Father was always with Him) unclothed Himself of heavenly glory to become a humble servant priest as a simple man.
 1. He divested Himself of His Divine glory and became a man:
 2. [Philippians 2:6-8 NIV](#) Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; (7) rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. (8) And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death-- even death on a cross!
 - a. The first statement could be also read: "Christ did not regard his equality with God as an object of solicitous desire (something eagerly to be seized, coveted, or desired);" that is, that though He was of a divine nature or condition, He did not eagerly seek to retain his equality with God, but took on Him an humble condition - even that of a servant."
 - b. I know what it is to have a covetous situation. I look at my marriage, my children, our household and our church and I think of it as something eagerly to be desired. I would never want to part with it! When I was single I had a job and a place to live that was of solicitous desire. I gave all that away to go somewhere that I did not consider to be of solicitous desire – to work as a missionary in Puerto Rico. I did it because I wanted to do God's will and not my own. I knew it was right because others had pointed the way for me and it did not come from my own will. I made it my will because I knew it was right. In the course of humbling myself and submitting to God I found a wife during my missionary journey and was blessed even more now than before in multiple ways.
 - c. Consider what Christ gave up. He gave up something connected to His divinity. I'm not sure what it is, or if we can understand it at this point;

but He didn't consider it more important than connecting to us and pursuing intimacy with us, His creation. Not only that, but **His relationship with the Godhead changed forever after that event**. We will look into that when we reach the second chapter of Hebrews.

3. He offered Himself as an atoning sacrifice
4. As such He accomplished atonement for all men.
 - a. He was the bullock of the priest's sacrifice for sin
 - b. He was the goat for the people's sacrifice of sin
 - c. He was also the ram for both the priest and the people's burnt offering.
 - d. His blood was sprinkled on the Most Holy Place, the tent of Meeting, the Ark of the Covenant and on all believer's consciences to cleanse them from sin.
5. And all this was not in the shadow tabernacle, but in the True Tabernacle – [Hebrews 8:1-2 NIV](#) Now the main point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, (2) **and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by a mere human being.**
6. And it was not with the blood of bulls and goats, but with His own blood – [Hebrews 9:12 NIV](#) He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; **but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood**, thus obtaining eternal redemption.
7. He also suffered outside the camp – [Hebrews 13:12 NIV](#) And so Jesus also suffered **outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood.**
8. As the sacrifice of the two goats symbolizes ONE unite:
 - a. Jesus, as the first goat, died to atone for our sins, being the cause of our salvation
 - b. As the second goat, He survived the sacrificial death when He was raised.
 - c. So He bore our sins outside the camp and did away with our sins by the sacrifice of Himself – [Hebrews 9:26 NIV](#) ...He has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages **to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself.**
- C. Jesus, as our High Priest, did not die – only as a sacrifice – but even in His death as the sacrifice He lives as our High Priest.
 1. He penetrated the veil of the Temple and tore it forever
 2. Not only the shadow temple, but He entered Heaven itself to appear before God on our behalf – [Hebrews 9:24 NIV](#) For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; **he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence.**
 3. He re-clothed Himself in His royal robes of heavenly splendor at His ascension.
 4. As our High Priest He ministers at God's right hand and intercedes for the saints:
 - a. [Hebrews 7:24-25 NIV](#) ...but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. (25) Therefore he is able to **save completely**

those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

- b. He continually stands as “propitiation” for our sins
- c. As our Eternal Priest, He continually applies the benefit of His sacrifice on our behalf.
- d. [1 John 1:7 NIV](#) But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

HE PAID A DEBT HE DID NOT OWE,

I OWED A DEBT I COULD NOT PAY.

I NEEDED SOMEONE TO WASH MY SINS AWAY.

AND NOW I SING A BRAND NEW SONG,

“AMAZING GRACE” ALL DAY LONG,

CHRIST JESUS PAID THE DEBT,

THAT I COULD NEVER PAY.

CONCLUSION:

All the sacrificial typologies find perfect fulfillment in Jesus Christ, as do all the functions of the High Priest. All this in its fulfillment was necessary for man’s initial and continued salvation from sin.

As we close this study we say along with Paul: Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!!! ([2 Corinthians 9:15](#))